

4TH CORPS ATTACK GREAT SUCCESS; ENEMY IS AWOL

Casualties of 82nd, 26th and 29th: One Private, With Cramps

FLAG BEARERS PROTEST

Get So Interested in Maneuvers They Refuse to Be Relieved by Fresh Troops

At 8 a.m. (9 a.m. maneuver time), on a fair February day, the Fourth Corps, First Army, consisting of the 82nd, 26th and 29th Divisions, went over the top and carried out one of the most successful attacks ever made by any American Army since the signing of the armistice.

A phantom enemy was in possession of Blondefontaine and the southern slopes of Hills 265 and 270, defending himself chiefly with machine guns and light artillery. Reports indicated beforehand that he was short of reserves, and that nothing more than local counter-attacks could be expected.

The 82nd Division, with snap and precision, advanced on the right, while the 29th struck desperately at the center and hurled the enemy back with such force that many prisoners fell to the Americans long before the first objective had been reached. The 26th Division hit such a blow that the enemy was forced to retire with but little resistance.

The first objective—Hill 315 and Hill 349—was reached on schedule, with the Americans suffering only light casualties—principally one buck private, who insisted that it wasn't war-like to have orderlies on the front lines, therefore developing a case of cramps so that he had to be relieved by one of the brave orderlies.

Attack Pushed With Vigor

The Infantry regiments advanced side by side, pushing the attack with vigor. One battalion of each regiment held the front line with two companies in the assault wave, while two companies followed in support at a distance of 200 meters. To each assaulting battalion was assigned one machine gun company, the one-pounders, a Stokes Mortar platoon and one section of 75's. The support battalions followed at 600 meters.

Flight B, 99th Observation Squadron, marked the advance line by the aid of the front line platoon commanders, who displayed panels and flags.

The battle orders said that each assaulting battalion would be pushed to its limit before being relieved. This order was not carried out—at least, in one case. The flag bearers who represented the battalion insisted that they were just beginning to get warmed up and, therefore, preferred to carry out the complete assault.

One private, first class, who represented an entire company, decided that he would enjoy the morning much better by spending it sitting near a fire, whereupon he discarded his flag and started for the rear. A lieutenant stopped him. "Where are you going?"

The first class private halted and tried to think up some excuse.

"You know very well," said the lieutenant, "what it means to beat it away from a battle. That's why we've got all these M.P.'s stationed back here."

Phantom M.P.'s Effective

The offender looked about for the M.P.'s. "Of course, you won't see any of them," the lieutenant explained, "but they're here just the same. There's one standing about ten feet from you and he's just about ready to grab you."

Ten minutes later the discarded flag had been picked up again and Company C was back in the fight.

At each of the first two objectives the Infantry halted to reorganize. An hour from the time it had jumped out from its position in the northern part of La Barde wood, on the Rancourt-Jussy road, the final objective had been taken and the enemy put to rout.

A 30-minute barrage (imaginary) starting 300 yards in advance of the Infantry positions started the offensive. The attack was then supported by a rolling barrage (also imaginary) as far as the last intermediate objective, then the fire was concentrated on the enemy positions.

The 10th Engineers opened and maintained the roads, threw bridges across the river, under fire, and, therefore, aided in making the offensive successful. Only there wasn't any fire and there weren't any bridges.

That is the way they are doing it, day in and day out, in the First and Second Armies. Imaginary divisions, with imaginary artillery, imaginary machine gun opposition and an imaginary enemy are carrying out terrain exercises with great skill. In most cases one man represents an entire company, or one man represents a platoon, according to the terrain, with a flag over his shoulder so that his C.O. may know whether the company is still intact or has been wiped out. There are also liaison men, runners, observers and P.C.'s.

Exercises Without Troops

Owing to the weather conditions the terrain exercises are being carried out without troops. Divisional areas and the location of units do not permit the assembling of divisions. When weather conditions permit, troops will be employed to make the exercises more interesting in the exercises to make them perfect.

The exercises are being conducted for the benefit of staff officers, divisional and battalion commanders, so that the old tricks learned in those days gone by will be ever fresh in the minds of those who would be called upon to make the command our Army should there be another war.

Every division in the First and Second Armies has had a previous training to the above. Battle plans, maps, corps, divisional and brigade orders are issued and carried out to the letter, just as though a real show was on, with a real enemy to be dealt with.

Sometimes, though, it is the least bit confusing. Take the case of the M.P. officer who was out inspecting posts on horseback when he came upon a captain standing at the side of a road a kilometer or two from nowhere and apparently doing nothing except wondering why it wasn't raining.

"Morning, lieutenant," greeted the captain, affably. "Mind my asking you who you are?"

"Just inspecting posts, sir," explained the lieutenant.

"Oh, thank you," said the captain, much relieved. "I thought you might be the enemy or a lot of wounded. You see, I'm four ambulance companies."

S.O.S. GUIDEBOOK OUT

The S.O.S. has just published its own guidebook—an eight-page pamphlet intended for the convenience of the increasing number of visitors from the United States. The booklet lists some of the principal points of interest at the ports and inland bases.

Visitors are advised to see the American docks, the warehouses and motor reception park, at Bordeaux; the warehouses and refrigerating plant at Giverny; the local assembling plant and waterworks at St. Nazaire; the 10,000-bed hospital at Savenay.

The aviation field and salvage depots near Tours and the aviation centers of Issoudun and Romorantin are also described.

AN ARMY POST SCHOOL IN A REAL SCHOOLROOM



35th Division men, mostly soldiers of foreign birth, learning to write the language of the country they fought for.

COOK HOLDS GROUND AS SEINE CREEPS UP

Barge Repairmen Have to Do Part of Their Job Under Water

"This kitchen sure moves around at lot at night," remarked the cook of the Inland Transportation Company as he approached the cold store with an armful of kindling wood. "Last night it was 'way up there on the hill. Now look at it—slid clean down to the edge of the river."

The Inland Transportation Company's kitchen, one kilometer from Epone, on the banks of the Seine, had not moved, however. It was the river which had been doing the moving.

For the second time since Companies C and D of the 57th Engineers became the Inland Transportation Company and began revamping barges at Epone and St. Mammes, that unit has had to pack up and move on account of floods. The men are sleeping on the barges anchored along the banks, while their quarters are four feet under water.

At St. Mammes, near Fontainebleau, the entire detachment moved aboard the barges, kitchen range and all. At Epone everyone moved but the cook. At last accounts he was standing in water above his knees cooking supper on a sizzling stove, swearing that he would not move again until the water put out the fire.

The Inland Transportation Company has been employed reconstructing and repairing the crippled barges which are being used for the transportation of supplies and war materials throughout the chain of canals which covers France. Company C has been transporting the mangled barges to the supply bases.

Much of the repair work has been done by the aid of diving suits, as it has been necessary in many cases for the men to work under water repairing rents and stopping leaks in the large bottoms.

A sergeant sleeping in the hold of one of the barges lost what he was to his bed-room looking like a lake. By watching his step he gained the entrance to the hold and escaped drowning. This bunk is still AWOL.

220,000 SOLDIERS HAD 7-DAY LEAVES

75,000 Men Entertained in Savoie Area, Mainly at Aix-les-Bains

Two hundred and twenty thousand A.E.F. soldiers had seven-day leaves, with their expenses paid by the Army, during the first year of operation of the A.E.F. leave area system, and 75,000 of them were entertained in the leave area of Savoie.

These figures are given by Franklin S. Edmunds, head of the Y.M.C.A.'s Soldiers Leave Department, at a banquet given at Aix-les-Bains to commemorate the first anniversary of the opening of Aix-les-Bains in the Savoie area, the first leave town. In his anniversary address, Mr. Edmunds emphasized the important effect the sending of soldiers on leaves and ideal French surroundings has had on international goodwill, and predicted that the demonstrated example of organized, wholesome recreation furnished by the Army in France would lead big industrial concerns in the United States to establish similar vacation systems.

Rolling of the growth of the leave area system, which is now handled largely by special bureaus of the Army and involve special problems as the operation of special trains. Mr. Edmunds said the Y.M.C.A. was now operating 18 casinos in France in 14 leave areas, and that two large municipal "rest halls" have been requisitioned in Germany for the occupying Army.

Other figures presented at the anniversary meeting showed that the Riviera leave area, including Cannes, Nice, Monaco and Menton, had been visited by 30,000 men in seven-day passes; the Auvergne area of La Bourboule and Mont Dore, 25,000; Brittany, with St. Malo, Dinard and Paimpol, 40,000; the Dauphine, with Grenoble, Allevard and Uriage, 20,000; and the Pyrenees, 10,000.

BIARRITZ GREETED 200 YANKS;

47 HOTELS TO HOUSE SOLDIERS

Biarritz, one of the most famous watering places of all Europe, opened as an A.E.F. leave area this week. Two hundred men arrived Tuesday, and it is expected that this number will be increased to 1,400 within the next week.

Forty-seven hotels will accommodate the American permissionnaires, and arrangements have been made whereby they will be given the best of meals, as each hotel is required to sign an agreement that the food given the men will be of a high standard.

The weather now is mild, and there has been considerable bathing during the past week. From the warm beach one can see the Pyrenees in Spain, covered with snow, only 20 miles away.

An elaborate program has been arranged for the entertainment of the men. Besides the golf and tennis grounds, a baseball field is being prepared. "Theatrical performances and dances are to be given daily. Arrangements have been made whereby Americans will be allowed to go to Hendaye, the last town in France, from which they can see a number of Spanish towns. They will not, however, be allowed to cross the bridge into Spain.

G.H.Q. APPROVES TWO NEW INSIGNIA

Shoulder Markings for Mallet Reserve and C.R.O.

Insignia for two more A.E.F. units have been approved by G.H.Q.—for the American Mission, Reserve Mallet, and the Central Records Office.

Reserve Mallet

Organized October 1, 1917, from members of the former American Field Service, who were enlisted at Epone and St. Mammes, France, in the United States Regular Army. Recruited to full strength with men from National Army.

Activities: Chemin des Dames, October 23, 1917; Cambrai offensive, November 25, 1917; Somme offensive, March 21, 1918; Aisne offensive, May 27; Montdidier-Noyon offensive, June 2; Champagne-Marne offensive, July 15; Aisne-Marne offensive, July 18; Somme offensive, August 8; Oise-Aisne offensive, September 10; Meuse-Argonne offensive, October 1.

Between June 8 and November 6, 1918, this organization hauled over 6,000,000 shells and 20,000 tons of Infantry ammunition. It transported many tanks and 75 light pieces to line positions.

Insignia: Horn of the French chasseur, in yellow, superimposed on shield of green.

Central Records Office

The Central Records Office, whose seat is at Bourges and whose work is chasing up lost service records, compiling vital statistics, and keeping tabs on the names and careers of everybody in the A.E.F., has adopted as its emblem a shield surmounted by an eagle, and both enclosed in a diamond. The eagle is of gold, and on the shield are silver stars.

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TWO A.E.F. UNITS WEAR FOURRAGERE

Sporting of Unauthorized Decorations Forbidden by G.H.Q.

Members of only two A.E.F. units, are

entitled to wear the French Army decoration, the fourragere, and both of these are

outfits which served with the French Army before the United States entered the war.

They are the 103rd Aero Squadron, formerly the Lafayette Escadrille, and the 64th Sanitary Service Unit, formerly S.S.U. No. 5.

Both these organizations received two citations in an Order of the Army, the 103rd Aero Squadron for its part in the Meuse-Argonne offensive, and the 64th Sanitary Service Unit for its part in the Meuse-Argonne offensive.

Unauthorized wearing of the fourragere or other decorations is prohibited by G.H.Q., which says the question is covered by an Act of Congress providing a penalty for wearing any foreign medal or decoration without authorization of the nation controlling the honor. The so-called "bottle ribbons" of the French army come under this ruling, and members of the A.E.F. who are sporting the Marce ribbon, the Verdun badge, and any of the others are easy pickings these days for M.P.'s.

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TO MASTER MASONS

Masters of Field Lodges and Secretaries of Social Organizations of Master Masons connected with the A.E.F. are requested to communicate to the undersigned the following information for a Masonic Directory which is in progress of preparation, namely: Names of Organizations, Names and Addresses of all Officers, Post Office address, street and number of regular meeting place if any.

Address: Recording Secretary, Ivel & Triangle Club

12 Rue d'Aguesseau, Paris

THOUSANDS FLOCK TO BEAUNE FOR UNIVERSITY WORK

Continued from Page 1

from the closed courses. All students are advised to attend both the public lectures and the closed courses for two weeks, after which registration for special instruction is required.

Art Center at Sevre

As a branch of Beaune university, an Art Training Center will be established by the A.E.F. this month at Bellevue, near Sevre, just outside of Paris. Courses will be given in architecture, painting, sculpture, landscape design, interior decorating, industrial and commercial art design, ornamental modeling and city planning. Men applying for admission to Bellevue should state in writing the subjects they desire to pursue.

The Educational Commission reserves the right to transfer students from Beaune to Bellevue or from Bellevue to Beaune. Bellevue will, for the most part, be for advanced students. Permission will be granted qualified students to attend architectural, painting and sculptural studies in Paris.

Reports to the Educational Commission show that the popularity of post schools throughout the A.E.F. is steadily growing. Increased efforts to furnish all post schools with needed text books are being exerted by the commission. In one division, the 58th, with headquarters at Gondrecourt, enrollment in the post school now exceeds 2,500.

The first course in the post school at G.H.Q. was concluded on March 1. The enrollment was more than 500. A second course of four weeks has been started.

TRADE RELATIONS THEME OF BORDEAUX CONFERENCES

Army Educational authorities in Base Section No. 2 have started a new department of instruction which deals with present business methods in America and France. The function of this department is to stimulate interest among the men quartered in the section in the opportunities before them in the business world.

The Chamber of Commerce of Bordeaux, together with leading business men in France, is co-operating with American Army authorities to make the plan a success.

It is intended to interest students in the commercial activities of France so that they may be able to share in the benefits of the increased trade relations between the two countries that is bound to come with the resumption of normal trade conditions.

The conferences started Monday. They consist of lectures on four subjects a day, lasting 25 minutes each, followed by 25 minutes of discussion. Four hundred men arrived in Bordeaux this week to begin their studies at the University of Bordeaux. It was at first expected to accommodate 1,200 men at the University, but it was impossible to find accommodations for so many in the city.

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